

To address threats posed by contamination at defense bases throughout the Mid-Atlantic states that are scheduled for realignment or closure, EPA Region III works closely with the Defense Department (DOD), state environmental representatives, and various stakeholders to develop effective cleanup solutions. Often situated in locations with high redevelopment potential, these sites may be contaminated with fuels, various hazardous substances and unexploded ordnance which must be addressed before the facility can be transferred and redeveloped.

For NPL, Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) and NPL/BRAC sites, EPA is the lead regulatory agency providing oversight. We use several tools to facilitate faster, more effective and less costly cleanup and reuse of these facilities. For NPL facilities, a Federal Facilities Agreement (FFA) is negotiated and signed by the facility, EPA, and sometimes the state. The FFA establishes the procedural framework and schedules for completing environmental work. In addition to the FFA, several federal facilities have incorporated alternate partnering techniques with EPA, the state, and other stakeholders to foster a team approach to effective cleanups and transfers.

Community involvement is another vital aspect to cleanup progress. EPA Region III fosters public participation by helping to establish restoration advisory boards (RABs) that bring community members, military officials and state and local regulators together to address cleanup issues. With these stakeholders working together, EPA believes economic recovery of communities affected by closing military bases can be expedited.

Now that the Naval Weapons Station Yorktown-Cheatham Annex Facility in



EPA works with the Defense Department and the State to develop effective cleanup solutions at federal facilities.





NASA-Langley Research Center, Hampton: Now that 10,000 tons of contaminated soil have been removed, disturbed areas along the affected Tabbs Creek have been restored and native shrubs have been replanted.

Once areas of the Naval Weapons Station-Yorktown were discovered to be contaminated with asbestos, explosives and PCBs, it was placed on the NPL. Indicative of the site's ongoing cleanup progress, both the station and its cleanup team were recently awarded the Secretary of the Navy's prestigious *Environmental Cleanup Award* for cooperative partnering and using innovative cleanup technologies.

Williamsburg and the U.S. Navy St. Julien's Creek Annex in Chesapeake are proposed to be listed on the NPL, EPA anticipates working with our Navy partners to ensure their extensive contamination is comprehensively addressed.

Cleanup of the 800-acre NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton is progressing smoothly as EPA Region III and NASA recently addressed the PCB-contaminated soils along Tabbs Creek. Now that almost 10,000 tons of soil have been removed and disposed, disturbed areas have been restored and native shrubs have been replanted. As a result of this remedial action, Tabbs Creek no longer poses a health threat to crab and oyster harvesters and consumers potentially affected by contaminated water and catch.

With its unlined landfills, pesticide storage areas and maintenance shops, severe con-



tamination at the 8,300-acre Ft. Eustis was widespread. Now that close to 3,000 tons of PCB-contaminated soils and sediments have been removed from this still-active Army base in Newport News, this site is one step closer to a much-anticipated wetlands restoration project. Once in place, this project will re-create a natural green space, reestablishing a clean, healthy habitat not only for residents and workers, but for the area's indigenous plants and wildlife.

Once used as a defense testing and evaluation facility, PCBs were released from transformers and related electronic equipment at the Woodbridge Research Facility along the Virginia bank of the Potomac River. Once Region III and the Army removed over 1,500 tons of contaminated soils and sediment from the site, ownership was transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Now called the Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge, the peaceful area serves as a valuable urban wildlife habitat.

Reuse success at federal facilities range from ecological restoration successes to economically beneficial redevelopment options. Once EPA ensured the excavation of severely contaminated soil, dredging of a metals contaminated lake, destruction of pesticide contaminated buildings and capping of an onsite landfill, a majority of the Vint Hill Farms Station was transferred to the local economic development authority. Today, 23 tenants ranging from a logistics engineering and information technology firm to the new headquarters for the Federal Aviation Administration call this site 'home'. The future looks even brighter for the local economy, as the facility will soon accommodate over three million square feet for technology businesses, research and development facilities and residential space upon completion.



Woodbridge Research Facility: Once EPA and the Army removed over 1,500 tons of contaminated soils, the site was transferred to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and is now called the Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

### FEDERAL FACILITIES IN VIRGINIA ON THE NPL

- Quantico Marine Corps Combat Development Command
- Defense General Supply Center (DLA)
- Yorktown Naval Weapons Station
- Fort Eustis
- Dahlgren Naval Surface Warfare Center
- Naval Station-Norfolk
- Langley Air Force Base/ NASA Langley Research Center
- Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek
- Norfolk Naval Shipyard
- Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot
- Saint Juliens Creek Annex (proposed)
- Naval Weapons Station Cheatham Annex (proposed)



### **BRAC/NON-NPL FACILITIES IN VIRGINIA**

- Woodbridge Research Facility
- Naval Radio Transmitting Facility, Driver
- Fort Picket
- Vint Hill Farms Station
- Cameron Station
- Defense Mapping Agency

### **NON-NPL FACILITIES IN VIRGINIA**

- Radford Army Ammunition Plant
- Warrenton Training Center
- Oceana Naval Air Station
- New River Ordnance Depot
- NASA Wallops Island

Ft. Eustis, Newport News: Now that almost 3,000 tons of PCB-contaminated soils and sediments have been removed from this active Army base, the site is one step closer to a much-anticipated wetlands restoration.